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Dulles papers show CIA-campus links

Several Princeton University professors served as consultants for the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) throughout the '60s, it was disclosed Tuesday.

John Cavanagh, a graduate student at the Woodrow Wilson School, discovered the evidence of CIA activities at the university in previously undisclosed documents contained in the personal papers of the late Allen Dulles, former CIA director, located in the university's Seely G. Mudd Library.

Mr. Dulles was director of the CIA from 1953 until 1961. He was a 1914 graduate of Princeton, a member of the university's board of Trustees and the advisory council on the Woodrow Wilson School.

MR. CAVANAGH found information in the Dulles papers indicating that a secret panel of academic consultants (called the "Princeton Consultants") to the CIA met in Princeton four times a year to provide intelligence assessments for the CIA's Office of National Estimates.

In 1961, the only year for which the full membership of the panel is known (from a letter all of them signed to the departing CIA director, Mr. Dulles), it consisted of four Princeton professors: the late T. Culyer Young, Klaus Knorr, Joseph Strayer and Cyril Black.

Also on the panel that year were two professors from Harvard, and one each from M.I.T., Berkeley and Duke and four other non-academics.

Later members of the "Princeton Consultants" included Princeton's James Billington and an M.I.T. expert on China, as was revealed in correspondence from 1965 and 1969, respectively.

Mr. Cavanagh said that the intelligence estimates prepared by the consultants included assessments of "enemy's" intentions in different countries and regions and foreign military capabilities, and speculated that their work may have served as an input for CIA covert operations of the 1950s, 1960s and possibly even the 1970s.

These operations are thought to include the unseating of democratically elected governments in Iran, Chile and the Dominican Republic and the CIA's Phoenix

program of assassination and torture to the Vietnamese during the war.

Mr. Cavanagh went into detail on the Dulles papers in an article in Tuesday's issue of the "Forerunner," a university newspaper, and also held a press conference that morning to announce his findings.

ALSO SPEAKING at the conference was Steve Slaby, associate professor at the university's School of Engineering. Dr. Slaby charged that the CIA had violated its mandate of intelligence gathering in other countries by performing that function domestically.

He said that the involvement of academics in covert operations is a "rape of open free scholarship. Any covert action on our campus threatens our freedom."

Dr. Slaby also spoke of a resolution that will be presented at the university faculty meeting next week

establishing stricter guidelines for faculty members who engage in "non-partisan public service."

The resolution proposes that any member of the university community that enters into a consulting position with an intelligence agency, recruits for an intelligence agency or undertakes intelligence operations must make the existence of such activities public in a file to be maintained in Firestone Library.

John Kelly, the editor of the Washington D.C.-based publication "CounterSpy," also spoke at the press conference on academic links to the CIA's MK-ULTRA drug research and mind control experiments.

Mr. Cavanagh's details on the Dulles papers findings will be published later this year in Mr. Kelly's forthcoming book, "The CIA in America."

by Tom Carroll
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